

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 DHA-02 ACDA-05 /080 W

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R 160758Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5615

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26132

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BANGKOK FROM SONGKHLA 15 DEC 75  
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 219

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: MUSLIM ANGER GROWS AFTER PATTANI GRENADE KILLS DEMONSTRATORS

1. GRENADE THROWN DECEMBER 13 INTO MUSLIMS DEMONSTRATING  
AGAINST TORTURE AND MURDERS OF 5 VILLAGERS BY THAI TROOPS  
(SONGKHLA 217) EXACERBATES COMMUNAL STRIFE CONSIDERABLY DOWN  
HERE. AT LEAST 7 DEAD AND 25 WOUNDED, AND SEVERAL WOUNDED  
EXPECTED TO DIE.

2. MUSLIMS BELIEVE GRENADE THROWN BY POLICE OR THAI RIGHTISTS.  
STORIES OF OTHER ATROCITIES, REAL OR IMAGINED, WHIPPED UP  
CROWD INTO MANY ANTI-RTG SPEECHES EVEN BEFORE EXPLOSION.  
GRENADE DEATHS INCREASED RUMORS AND HATRED. DEMONSTRATORS  
HAVE NOW MOVED TO PATTANI CENTRAL MOSQUE WHERE SEVERAL  
THOUSAND STILL STANDING IN HEAVY RAIN AS OF SUNDAY NIGHT.  
MUSLIM VILLAGERS COMING INTO PATTANI TOWN NOW OUTNUMBERING  
STUDENTS AND URBAN CROWD AT MOSQUE.

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3. RELIGION IS NOW FOCAL POINT IN DISTURBANCE. WEEKEND WAS MUSLIM HOLIDAY (FEAST OF PILGRIMAGE), AND VICTIMS ARE BEING CELEBRATED AS HEROES KILLED IN HOLY WAR. BODIES WERE BURIED IMMEDIATELY AS WAR DEAD RATHER THAN WITH ORDINARY MUSLIM RITES. SPEAKERS CLAIMED STRUGGLE WAS NO LONGER ONE FOR JUSTICE (PUSHMENT FOR THOSE WHO KILLED 5 MUSLIMS LAST WEEK), BUT RATHER HAS BECOME FIGHT FOR PRESERVATION OF RELIGION. SPEAKERS ALSO HEARD DEMANDING THAT NEWS OF MUSLIM OPPRESSION BE CIRCULATED IN MALAYSIA AND ARAB COUNTRIES IN ORDER GAIN OUTSIDE SUPPORT.

4. CONCOMITANT WITH UGLY PATTANI SCENE IS ONGOING TRIAL IN NEIGHBORING YALA WHERE 10 MUSLIMS WITH DUAL THAI/MALAYSIAN NATIONALITY NOW BEING CHARGED WITH ATTEMPT ORGANIZE RELIGIOUS WAR AGAINST RTG (SONGKHLA 120). THIS GROUP WAS AT STAGE OF POURING HOLY WATER ON BODIES AS PROTECTION AGAINST BULLETS.

COMMENT: ONCE AGAIN VENAL THAI DISTRICT OFFICIALS HAVE DEMONSTRATED KNACK OF MAKING BAD SITUATION WORSE (SONGKHLA A-10 AUGUST 1975). SOURCE HERE CLAIMS LAST WEEK'S TORTURE AND KILLINGS WERE ACTUALLY WORK OF THAI MARINES WHO NEW TO AREA. MUSLIMS WERE REPORTEDLY SUSPECTED BANDITS OR ACCOMPLICES, AND QUIET MURDER IS NORMAL JUSTICE METED OUT TO SMALL FRY GANGSTERS HERE IN WILD WEST. ENJOYMENT IN KILLINGS AND FURTHER COVERUP INCENSED MUSLIMS WHO FAMILIAR WITH PAST EPISODES.

WHILE RTG SHOULD BE ABLE HANDLE IMMEDIATE SITUATION WITH TROOPS IN AREA, IT IS GOING TO HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOME STRT OF JUSTICE FOR PERPETRATORS OF ATROCITIES IF IT IS NOT TO ALIENATE BULK OF MUSLIM POPULATION. REAL WORRY HERE IS CALL FOR OUTSIDE SUPPORT. IF MASSIVE AID COMES IN A LA SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES, RTG WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO COME UP WITH ENOUGH TROOPS, LET ALONE DESIRE, TO HANDLE COMMUNAL STRIFE IN THREE SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCES WITH 80-90 PERCENT MUSLIM POPULATION. CASTRODALE

UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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